

SALT TIMES



February 2004

Sheriff Garry E. Lucas

Senior scam strikes local retirement home

Several residents of Glenwood Senior Living center have been the target of the latest scam to hit Vancouver.

The scam, which is originating out of Florida, has a few different approaches to get the intended victims to divulge personal information such as account numbers, dates of birth and social security numbers.

These are the type of phone calls that some seniors have received that you need to be aware of:

A person claiming to work for Visa told the senior they needed to straighten out some information. Because the senior's husband was deceased, they needed to replace her Visa card. The caller already seemed to know a lot of the information, so the senior felt the call was legitimate.

It wasn't until she was contacted by Western Union that she found out \$2,300 had been charged to her Visa.

Another call to an unsuspecting senior indicated that storms on the East Coast had deactivated her credit card and information was needed to reactivate it.

In yet another incident, a man called claiming to work for Citibank. He told the senior that account information on some of their clients had been lost and they were calling to verify information.. The caller asked for dates of birth and social security numbers— and he got them!

As you can see, these scam artists are clever and will try any method to steal your information. In most of these cases, the seniors felt that these were legitimate calls because the caller seemed to already know a lot about them. It is unknown

how much of the victims' information these scam artists actually had, but nevertheless, they were very convincing.

Fortunately, in these cases, none of the victims suffered any personal financial loss. These reports have been forwarded to the Secret Service in Miami.

Important points to remember:

- ? Banks and legitimate businesses do not call you to obtain or verify your personal information.
- ? Never give out personal information over the phone unless *you* initiate the call to a known, legitimate business.

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What Would You Do?

Test your knowledge on home fire safety.

"Unfortunately, too few people realize how quick and deadly a home fire can be."

Judy Comoletti, NFPA

For more information on home fire safety:

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
www.nfpa.org

United States Fire Administration
www.usfa.fema.gov

National Association of Fire Marshals
www.firemarshals.org

Clark County Fire Marshal
360-397-2186

1. If a pan on the stove catches on fire , you should:
 - A. Use a fire extinguisher.
 - B. Pour water over the fire.
 - C. Slide a lid over the burning pan and turn off the burner.
2. Once you are out of the house, you should:
 - A. Go back to fight the fire.
 - B. Go back for personal possessions.
 - C. Stay out.
3. You should test your smoke alarms:
 - A. Once a month.
 - B. Twice a year.
 - C. Once a year.
4. Cooking fires are a leading cause of burn injuries among older people. True or False
5. Older people are at special risk for death and injury from fires. True or False
6. You just need *one* planned escape route in case of a fire. True or False.

Answers To quiz

1. **C.** If a pan of food catches fire, don't use a fire extinguisher and don't throw water on the fire. This can splatter burning grease and spread the fire. Instead, smother the fire by sliding a lid firmly in place until the pan has cooled. For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the oven door closed.
2. **C.** The most important thing when a fire occurs is to get out of the house immediately and stay out, then call the fire department. Do not try to fight the fire. Leave your possessions behind and never go back into a burning building for any reason.
3. **A.** Test all your alarms monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Smoke alarms don't last forever. Replace any smoke alarm that is more than 10 years old.
4. **True.** Prevent fires and burns by being alert when you cook. Keep pot handles turned inward, use pot holders and oven mitts and while cooking. Take a reminder with you or set a timer if you must leave the kitchen while you are cooking food on the stove.
5. **True.** Older adults (age 65 and older) are twice as likely to die in fires as any other age group. Older people are also at higher risk of injury from fires. However, this high risk can be greatly reduced by following simple fire prevention rules.
6. **False.** You should practice two ways out of every room in your house. If you use a wheelchair or walker, discuss your escape plans ahead of time with your fire department, your family, the building manager and neighbors.

Is the sight of your neighbors' house making you sick?

Here is some information and resources that may help you feel better:

Accumulating Junk

There is a nuisance ordinance prohibiting the accumulation of more than one cubic yard of debris on property classified as urban residential zoned areas when it is visible from adjacent property. In the rural zones more than two cubic yards of junk and debris in the front and side yard are a violation of code when visible from adjacent property.

Nuisance Violations

Nuisance violations include junk and debris scattered in the yard, inoperable vehicles for over 30 days, and tall grass and weeds in the front and side yard in the urban areas.

Inoperable Cars on Property

In the urban zoned residential areas of Clark County no inoperable vehicles are allowed in public view for more than 30 days. In the rural residential areas, two inoperable vehicles are allowed in public view.

ABANDONED AUTOS

A parked car on a public roadway (even if it is parked in front of your own house) is considered an abandoned auto if:

- ? Parked for more than 24 hours
- ? Not legally operable
- ? Not driven regularly
- ? Has an expired vehicle license
- ? No vehicle license

Once a vehicle has been tagged as an abandoned auto, it needs to be removed from the street within 24 hours or it may be removed and stored at the owner's expense.



What can you do?

The first thing you should do if you believe a neighbor is in violation of an ordinance is to talk with your neighbor or the property owner about the situation. If the situation is still unresolved, then call Code Enforcement. *Complaints are confidential.*

Clark County Code Enforcement:
397-2375 X 4184
codenfor@clark.co.wa.us

City of Vancouver Code Enforcement Complaint Hotline:
735-8873 X 8711

To report abandoned vehicles (on the street) in Clark County, call 9-1-1.

To report abandoned vehicles in the City of Vancouver, call
735-8873 X8711



*Help keep the community
safe and livable.
Report abandoned autos in your
neighborhood.*

Clark County Sheriff's Office
P.O. Box 410
Vancouver, WA 98666

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See inside flyer for information on the S.A.L.T. Spaghetti Feed February 23, 2004

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- ? Warn your friends and neighbors about any suspicious calls you receive—especially if you live in a shared living environment.
- ? Report any suspicious calls to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

With advancements in technology and a new era of identity theft on the rise, you cannot afford to take chances with your personal information.

**WHEN IN DOUBT,
DON'T GIVE IT OUT!**



**Happy
Valentine's Day!**

Protect your valuables!

Recently, a senior citizen had her car broken into while attending church. She had left her purse in her car because the car is an older model and she didn't think anyone would ever bother with it.

According to a Clark County deputy, this is not all that uncommon. There have been many incidents of vehicle prowls where a senior citizen's purse, money, etc. was left in plain view in an unlocked vehicle.

PLEASE do not leave your purse, wallet, cash, cell phone, mail, or any other item of value in your vehicle. And LOCK your doors. If you must leave valuable items in your vehicle, discreetly lock them in the trunk.

Vehicle prowls can happen anywhere— at home, shopping, at the movies, and even at church. No areas are off limits to thieves.